

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 12, 2007 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

**Public Hearing – Prospect Wind Tower Permit Application:** On Wednesday, September 12, 2007, the Board of Madison County Commissioners conducted a public hearing, with Commissioners David Schulz, Marilyn Ross, and Jim Hart present, regarding an application submitted by Madison Valley Renewable Energy to construct anemometer towers at four sites in Madison County. Those on the attached list were present for the public hearing. Chairman Schulz opened the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. and asked the contract planner for his comments. Jim McGowan, Great West Engineering, gave an overview of the project and described where each tower would be constructed. Jim stated that the original proposal was for five towers but had since been cut to four. Jim stated that several agency comments have been received regarding the project and that public comments have been received from Robert M. Lee Trust Lands which stated concerns about the completeness of the submitted material; Ed Collins stating concerns about impacts on view sheds, property values, noise, life of the project, and the number of generators to be sited; and Barry McClean requesting information on the background of the wind developer. Jim stated that although the tower height is too short to invoke FAA lighting requirements, the Montana Aeronautics Division recommended that towers be lighted with red lights, but that the Madison County Airport Board had no objection to the proposed permit request. Colleen Dowdall, Warden Thane, P.C., distributed written material and spoke on behalf of the Robert M. Lee Trust Lands, encouraging further study of the sites especially those closest to wilderness areas, and Ann and David Sward questioned the amount of permanent structures that would be constructed. The topic of lighting the towers was discussed and it was determined that lights may be an issue to local residents and would not be required. Marilyn Ross moved to approve the permit application from Madison Valley Renewable Energy, LLC, for four anemometer towers, MET 1 to be constructed in the northeast part of Section 9, Township 4 South, Range 1 West, approximately four miles north of McAllister and two miles west of US Highway 287; MET 2 to be constructed in the southwest part of Section 12, Township 4 South, Range 1 West approximately four miles northeast of McAllister, 1.5 miles east of US Highway 287 and two miles south of Bradley Creek Road; MET 3 to be constructed in the northwest part of Section 5, Township 4 South, Range 1 East approximately 7.5 miles northeast of McAllister and 1.5 miles southeast of Bradley Creek Road; and MET 5 to be constructed in the central part of Section 35, Township 2 South, Range 1 West approximately three miles north of Norris, and two miles west of highway 287, pending resolution of bird issues and Fire Department approval, per staff recommendation as submitted by Jim McGowan. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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David Schulz, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: September 18, 2007

Minutes prepared by:

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Laurie Buyan, Administrative Assistant

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Peggy Kaatz, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County